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WEATHER BULLETIN.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—For lower Michigan: Generally fair, warmer Wednesday night, northwest winds becoming variable.

CHICAGO ELECTION.

That John P. Hopkins, the democrat candidate, was yesterday elected mayor of Chicago will cause little astonishment. None outside of that town will be surprised unless it be the overconfident republicans who, since the November elections, have been dreaming that in the future they were to own the earth. The very small plurality by which the election was settled is a decided victory for republicans. The total registered vote of Chicago is about 282,000. Of this the two candidates polled 221,602, a very fair vote for a special election. The people there have taken a great interest. The contest was earnest, even bitter. The republican press of the city charged general corruption and specified stuffed pay rolls at the hands of the Carter Harrison administration. The democrats appealed to party pride and prejudice and begged voters not to condemn the administration at Washington by the election of a republican mayor in Chicago. Their logic was somewhat far-fetched, but their appeal was successful. The majority, however, is so reduced that the successful candidate must feel terribly chagrined and the administration will read the news with little satisfaction. Chicago, like all large cities, is naturally a democrat town. In April last Carter Harrison was elected by a plurality which exceeded 19,000. One year ago Cleveland had 22,450 more votes than Harrison of a total vote of 256,000. The result is not what it would have been could republicans have had it made to their order, yet it is one over which the party may feel satisfied, as a democrat majority of 10,000 had been expected.

THE BOARD OF TRADE.

In his address to the board of trade, on again assuming the office of president, Col. George G. Briggs embodies some facts which all citizens, especially those of a pessimistic turn of mind, will do well to read, learn and inwardly digest as the prayer book puts it. Grand Rapids may well be proud of the showing made by its financial and mercantile institutions during the panic of this year. But one failure of any moment has marked that period, while from many other cities was coming daily reports of banks suspending and commercial houses forced to the wall. The board of trade has in a quiet way been an important factor in holding Grand Rapids up to its high commercial standard. Wisely it has checked any manufactured boom, and while aiding in the establishment of meritorious enterprises, it has not fostered upon the community a lot of card houses which would not have outlived the late financial storm. Colonel Briggs, as president of the board, has done much to shape the policy of the organization and richly merited recognition to the office he has so ably filled, although he was loth to continue to carry the burden of the place. It is a case of the right man in the right place. One of the recommendations made is that steps be taken to reform municipal methods of doing business. If the men who constitute the membership of the board of trade will lend their united energies to this movement, something will be accomplished, but to do so might possibly inject the inharmonious element of politics into the organization. It would be a good work, but would have to be handled as a matter of cold business entirely divorced from partisanship, or the usefulness of the board of trade might be seriously crippled.

THE SCHOOL QUESTION.

Baltimore, Md., is just now the scene of a very heated discussion of the public and parochial school systems. The discussion was precipitated by the promulgation of a circular that has been given extensive distribution, and is said to have emanated from Cardinal Gibbons and to have the approval of Men-

Sell. The circular seems to indicate a very determined effort on the part of the Roman hierarchy to secure a division of the public school funds of the state for their parochial schools. The efforts of these parochialists have gone to the extent of having prepared a bill that is to provide for the division of the school funds and which will be presented to the legislature of Maryland and New York at their assembling the coming January. The bill was published in a New York weekly paper devoted to catholic matters November 19 last. According to a dispatch published in The Herald yesterday the protestant ministers of that city had the matter under discussion at their conference meeting Monday. From the report received it is apparent that the lovers of the one great American institution, in Baltimore at least, are very much opposed to the division of public funds for the support of sectarian schools. Our free school system is the bulwark of American institutions. It is the greatest agency for fitting the youth and citizen for discharging the duties of freemen in a republican form of government. The state always has and should continue to maintain the direction of these schools without ecclesiastical interference or influence from any source. Democracy necessitates the public school. Its function is peculiar; it is particularly effective in Americanizing the children of immigrants. It assimilates the heterogeneous masses that come to us, and in most instances renders them homogeneous in our generation. Any general movement in favor of parochial schools would tend toward sectionalism, sectarianism and the creation of prejudice, the tendency of which would be to weaken popular government. The object of the public school is to make good citizens, while the principal purpose of the parochial schools seems to be to make sectarians. Broad Americanism and not narrow sectionalism is of paramount importance in a free government. Our public school system must remain free from sectarian influence and in its conduct the state must not be interfered with. It is a peculiarly American institution and any division of the school funds would be un-American and cannot be countenanced. This fact might as well be understood, first and last.

WAYNE McVEAGH.

President Cleveland has at last found a man to his own liking for the post of ambassador to Italy, left vacant by the Van Alen incident. He has gone outside the old line supporters of his party to fill this important place and has, as in choosing his secretary of state, pitched upon a mugwump. Personal pique at the Hon. James G. Blaine, caused Wayne McVeagh, who had been greatly honored by the republican party, to bolt his party in 1884 and support Mr. Cleveland, and now the country is treated to the spectacle of his treachery being rewarded by a fat office at public expense. Mr. Cleveland evidently seems determined in this latest appointment to administer a snub to those members of his party who objected to Mr. Van Alen.

The action of Judge Judkins in his conduct of the McKee case has been prompt, concise and dignified. His prompt and decisive rulings are worthy of commendation and emulation. If all judges would rule with equal decision and alacrity much unfit and immoral testimony would not be inflicted upon the jury and the public and the ends of justice hastened and not delayed thereby. A great deal of superficial argument would be avoided and much unnecessary cost to county and state saved. It would be well if more of the judges of the state were made of the same material as Judge Judkins.

A dispatch from Fort Plain, N. Y., announces that the Grand Trunk Railway company has settled with the Smith family for injuries received at Battle Creek for \$80,000. The sum seems very large and an adjustment on a similar basis with all the survivors and relatives of the killed in that accident would certainly materially reduce the surplus of the corporation. The fact that three of the family have not yet been moved would indicate that the injuries received were very serious and the case for damages was an exceedingly strong one.

Wilson has finally laid Cleveland's tariff bill before the committee on ways and means. This committee was supposed to have the drafting of the bill, but Grover kindly relieved them of the work.

This senate had better confirm the nomination of McVeagh. Cleveland has dropped from Van Alen to McVeagh and so one knows where he might drop if he had to make another choice.

Chicago robbers have once more held up a fare bank. If robberies must take place, such victims seem about the ones which will receive the least sympathy from outsiders.

War should the entire United States be taxed one million of dollars to exterminate a few Russian thieves in Dakota? Let every land holder do his own exterminating.

Stella Frank Lawler is looking for a job. Grand Rapids postoffice remains to be given out. Frank would probably take that.

Old-time democrats will not enjoy the sensation of being turned down once more in favor of Wayne McVeagh.

The firm of Cleveland & Graham has taken in a new partner. Mugwump McVeagh will now pose as "Co."

John B. Paxon's opinion of the appointment of Wayne McVeagh would be of interest.

Wayne McVeagh has at last been given his thirty pieces of silver.

TO HELP THE CITY

Is the Aim of the Grand Rapids Board of Trade.

PRESIDENT BRIGGS' INAUGURAL

He Lays Before the Directors Suggestions of Work to Be Done—Grand Rapids' Proud Record.

The new directory of the board of trade was well represented last evening at the first regular meeting of the board since its annual meeting. Eighteen members of the board were present. President Briggs was in the chair, and the chief interest of the evening centered in his inaugural address, which is as follows:

President Briggs' Address.
In being called to preside over your deliberations for another year I am deeply sensible of the honor conferred, and beg to return my thanks for so unimpeachable an expression of your continued trust and confidence. In entering upon the discharge of our duties for the new year I ask the indulgence of the board in briefly presenting for consideration a few thoughts and recommendations suggested by the occasion.

This meeting marks the entrance of the board upon the seventh year of its existence, and I may add, from the date of its formation to the present the plans and purposes of the organization have been prosecuted to the full extent permitted by the means at its disposal. Without attempting an enumeration by name the numerous services annually rendered in promoting the welfare of the city we may point, if asked for tangible evidence of work performed, to several important manufacturing industries whose location in our midst is due directly to the efforts of the board. And further, that any one of them is worth to the city annually far more than the board has ever cost our citizens all told.

It is believed the scope and purpose of the board, namely, to foster, protect and advance the commercial, mercantile, manufacturing and municipal interests of the city, and by the publication of specific information make known the advantages of Grand Rapids as a city of homes and a desirable place for the establishment of business enterprises, are sufficiently broad to warrant the general support and endorsement of our people. It is gratifying to note in this connection that the warmest friends of the board are those most familiar with what it has thus far accomplished and with its plans for future efforts. The fact, also, that the number of votes polled at the last election was far in excess of that shown upon any similar occasion, is proof of increasing interest upon the part of the membership at large, and warrants our faith in the belief that the Grand Rapids board of trade has come to stay.

From this brief consideration of the situation and of results thus far accomplished, encouragement may be drawn and future successes predicted. Indeed, with like faith as that which sustained the commander of the union forces at the close of that great conflict, in the Wilderness, we may say to our friends, as he said to his generals after hearing their reports, "Gentlemen, we have done very well; at daylight tomorrow we will again move forward."

A New "Grand Rapids As It Is."

Taking up, therefore, the work before us, attention is invited to one or two matters that may profitably engage the attention of the board during the present year.

A new issue of "Grand Rapids As It Is," brought down to date, or a work of similar character, should be gotten out at an early day. Former editions of our book are exhausted, while demands for copies from various sources are our most daily occurrence. As the publication is not a tax upon our treasury and has proved a valuable medium for making known the advantages claimed for our city, its annual issue and wide distribution cannot fail of beneficial results.

There is another enterprise in which the board may profitably engage, and that too without coming into competition or interfering with the established business of any of our citizens. I refer to the annual publication of a city directory. A brief canvass among the subscribers to such work has shown that preference would be given in every instance to a board of trade book, should such be issued. As the work is one that the board may properly undertake, and would add to our annual revenues \$2,000 or \$3,000, I recommend that steps be taken for the annual publication of such directory, and that notice of such intention be published to our citizens. As the board's usefulness is, to some extent, measured by the amount of means at its disposal, and as its only revenue at present is derived from membership fees, I deem the enterprise named worthy of your adoption.

An Exchange Bulletin.

As it is the desire of the directors to extend to the general membership all privileges afforded by the board for the advancement of individual interests, I would suggest that a bulletin board, placed in the office of the board for such purpose, might be a convenient and desirable method for members of the association to publish and make known their wants. To those who want to sell, whether real estate or other property, as well to those who want to buy, this bulletin board would be of great service. The advantages derived from ample railway facilities are well known, and as every additional line entering the city adds to its importance as a railroad center, and aids in our continued growth and prosperity, support should be extended to the project of a line for the building of a road from this city to Battle Creek. Such a line would afford direct communication with Toledo and the coal fields of Ohio, and making connections with the Baltimore & Ohio system, would prove of great value in a general way and of special service to many of our industries. There are most excellent reasons for stating that this line, together with the one projected between this city and Grand Haven, will be built in the very near future.

Needed Municipal Reforms.

Representing the mercantile, manufacturing and commercial interests of the city, this organization is the proper medium to voice the sentiments of such interests upon all public questions, whether municipal, state or national. As the discussion of needed reforms in our municipal government is especially within our sphere of action, I recommend that the question of revising our city charter be taken up by the committee on municipal affairs, in order that the board may be in position to aid the city authorities in securing any needed reforms. Recommendations at the next session of the legislature. The recent party politics which deprived an able man of his seat in the council,

and the fact that the mayor is powerless to remove minor officials, although self-confessed bribe takers, and that such are enabled to retain their positions because of the refusal of the council to confirm appointments made to fill their places, are striking evidence that the present division of power and responsibility needs radically changing—that the "executive" and "legislative" should be separated, and the power of the mayor should be greatly increased; the duties of the various boards—auxiliary branches of the municipal government—clearly marked and defined and the prerogative of the council made purely legislative. A study of the charters under which some of the older cities are governed would no doubt greatly aid the committee in its work, and the secretary should be directed to obtain copies of such as are needed.

Grand Rapids' Proud Record.

Although somewhat foreign to the subject matter under consideration, I trust I may be pardoned for referring briefly to the recent financial crisis, as, by comparing its effect upon other cities, we have reason for congratulating ourselves upon having escaped with so little damage. For a period of some five months a financial stringency existed, such as this country never before experienced. It threatened the very existence of trade and paralyzed the arm of industry in every city, town and hamlet in the land. Now that this financial cyclone has spent its fury it is gratifying to note that no city of the United States rode out the storm in better shape than Grand Rapids. Considering the disasters that overwhelmed many of the monetary institutions in every section of the country, it is especially worthy of comment that not a single bank failure occurred in our city, and that in no instance did our savings banks avail themselves of the privileges of requiring notice of withdrawal by their depositors. When it is considered that in the neighborhood of a million and a half of dollars was withdrawn from the banks of the city within the space of four months, and that during this time no draft upon deposits was refused, the simple statement of such a record is proof of strength and management that entitles these institutions to the fullest respect and confidence of the community.

The effects of depression so wide spread and universal are felt most severely by those of our manufacturing industries whose products and a market in nearly all the states of the union. Happily, evidences of returning confidence are indicated by the receipt of goods, and it is believed the demand will soon resume its normal proportions. Our jobbing trade, which has assumed most gratifying proportions and is still growing, will close the year with most excellent showing. In some instances sales are in excess of former years and collections have been, in the main, very satisfactory.

Unemployed Labor.

That our city is fortunate in the general condition of its people, as compared with less favored localities, is strikingly illustrated by the accounts that come to us of distress existing among the unemployed of other and more seriously affected centers of population. That, in the main, we are self-sustaining is shown by the fact that the disbursements from the poor fund of the city have been less up to the present time than was the case a year ago. In these statements I would like to be understood as claiming for the city exemption from unemployed citizens or the poor and needy, or that the number and necessities of such are not greater than heretofore. They are intended rather to emphasize the fact that the assistance and organized efforts upon the part of generous hearts and willing hands, the city has not only supplied needed contributions to the worthy and deserving, but has promptly responded by donations to the cry of distress from the suffering poor of less favored localities.

As this report is already longer than originally intended, I will only add in closing, that as an organization of business men, we should promptly meet and discharge all obligations incurred by the board. To enable our treasurer to honor drafts for rent, salary of secretary and other current expenses, members are reminded that in the prompt payment of dues they are performing a most important duty; a service in fact necessary to the continued welfare and usefulness of the board.

The resolution of Charles R. Sligh, the resolutions presented at a former meeting, congratulating Colonel Ludlow on his appointment as a military attaché to the American embassy at the court of St. James, were unanimously adopted. The standing committees of the board, heretofore published, were also formally announced.

The recommendation of President Briggs, in his inaugural, as to the printing of another board of trade book similar to "Grand Rapids As It Is," was referred to the committee on printing. President Briggs' plan for the board to publish the city directory for 1895, was also favorably commented upon and referred to the ways and means and executive committees. The charter amendments referred to in the inaugural were referred to the legislative committee and after informal discussion the board adjourned.

STATE PRESS SENTIMENT.

Michigan ranks first in the production of copper, salt, lumber, high grade iron, and third in the production of wool. All these new free trade tariff tinkers try to kill off in the interests of Canadian producers. Michigan gave men and money to defend the union and has paid taxes to support it since. Canada did none of these things, but offered asylum to confederate plotters. Now the congressmen from those states then in rebellion cripple Michigan to help Canada. Whatever the democrats of other states may think, those of Michigan who sustain such a policy have little cause to be proud of their party.—Muskogee Chronicle.

Democratic congressmen are between the devil and the deep sea. They are uneasy in view of the widespread and emphatic protests from their constituents against the passage of the Wilson bill, and if they yield to these protests it is confession that the tariff policy of the party is a failure.—Saginaw Courier-Herald.

England kindly issues notice that she does not want Hawaii. It is particularly fortunate that the cupidity of Great Britain does not extend to the islands for it is universally understood in this country that she could not have them if she wanted them ever so much.—Detroit Free Press.

It is a good thing that the state of Superior is not a reality this year. Were it not for the "grangers" of the lower peninsula and their beautiful donations, the state of Superior would not "be in it" at all.—Manistique Tribune.

The Democratic Cleveland Plain Dealer says: "The Wilson bill is illegal, partial, false in economic principles, and is a national disgrace. The republicans for McKinley—Detroit Evening News."

MAFIA IS IN DANGER

Italy Will Wipe Out the Secret Society in Sicily

AND SUPPRESS TAX RIOTS

Troops Are Being Hurried to the Island to Aid the Forces to Quell Disturbances.

Rome, Dec. 18.—Owing to the situation in Sicily, growing out of the new taxation schemes, the government is sending troops to augment the present forces on the island, which number 8,000 men. A determined attempt will be made to put down the rioting that has occurred of late in connection with the popular agitation against the new taxes. Efforts will, it is said, also be made to break the influence of the secret society, the Mafia, which is held to be responsible for much of the evil now prevalent in Sicily.

STOLE HIS SWEETHEART.

A Mexican Held Up a Coach and Kidnaped a Girl.

DURANGO, Mex., Dec. 18.—The prefect of the district of Coahuila and a party of rural guards are in close pursuit of the Mexicans who kidnaped Miss Charlotte Newman, a pretty American girl, a few days ago.

Miss Newman lived at Mazatlan with her mother. She was on her way by stage to Mazatlan when the driver reigned up at a call from the roadside, where four men on horseback sat pointing revolvers at his head.

While one man held a gun on the driver, and attended to the horse, another stepped to the end of the coach and courteously requested the young lady to come out.

The frightened girl recognized the larger man as Jose Valdez, a rejected lover. She begged the passengers to save her. Valdez warned them to do nothing, and as they had no firearms they dared not protest.

After vainly urging Miss Newman to alight Valdez and a companion laid hold of her and carried her to the horses. They placed her upon one, tied her to the saddle and led the horse towards the mountains.

Drowned While Skating.

HALIFAX, Dec. 18.—Mary Doyle, aged 18, her brother James, aged 13, John, aged 12, and Charles Neal, aged 16, children from the industrial school, were drowned this evening while skating on Chocolate lake.

Big Irish Stew.

LONDON, Dec. 18.—A furious gale is prevailing the Irish sea and St. George's channel. Many vessels have sought refuge in the harbors.

AMUSEMENT NOTES.

The concert given in the Ladies' Literary club house last evening by Miss Rathbone Carpenter, assisted by some of the best local talent of Grand Rapids, must rank as one of the finest of such musical events ever offered in this city. Of course Miss Carpenter was the great attraction of the evening, though each other participant in the program acquitted himself in a very satisfactory manner. The singing of George H. Smith brought him warm applause, especially when the score called for the lower notes, where his deep baritone voice showed to the best advantage. His rendition of Gounod's "She Alone Charming My Sadness" was perhaps his best effort. Frank Wurzburger showed his merit as a violinist in both his solo numbers and in the instrumental part of the duo with Miss Carpenter. This accompaniment was R. A. Wellenstein, whose work was as usual excellent, even though he was handicapped by a very bad number piano. Of Miss Carpenter it must be said that in her Grand Rapids has given to the lyric an ornament to the lyric stage. Her stage presence is excellent and her work shows her great fitness lies in the heavy dramatic style of vocalization of the Wagner school. The lady was suffering from a cold, which compelled the cancellation of one number of the program, but the numbers rendered were of such variety that the capabilities of her soprano voice were evident. Seldom has a voice of such volume and range been heard in this city. Her style is, of course, of the German school, and while somewhat of the smoothness and dainty tone coloring which marks the Italian school, is missing, this could not be expected in one who has chosen the vocation of rendering Wagner's heroic roles, and who, when judged, must stand or fall by that standard. As an interpreter of the close of music Miss Carpenter must be classed as an artist. Last evening she sang but one Wagner number, but that was the dramatic part of Brunhilde in the third act of "Die Walkure." She appeared in costume and held the close attention of the large and critical audience from the sounding of the first notes given behind the scenes to the finale. Her other numbers were from Meyerbeer, Bohme, Delibes, Gramman, Rice and Strelani, thus affording an opportunity of judging of the flexibility of her voice. It is to be hoped this Grand Rapids may at some time be enabled to hear Miss Carpenter in heroic music with proper stage appliances and the full orchestra so necessary to the best interpretation of Wagner.

The sale of seats for the University Glee and Banjo club in Lockport hall Friday evening, will open from the box office this morning. The organization is stronger than ever this year and the concert will be a splendid one.

"Wang" will be the offering in The Powers' tonight. It is one of the most entertaining productions of its class and the casts embraces many excellent artists.

Friday night in The Powers' another of Frohman's companies will be seen in the New York success, "The Girl I Left Behind Me."

"The Fairy Queen" will be presented in All Souls' church this evening for the benefit of the Children's home.

"Ben Hur," which will be given in The Powers' next week, is being actively rehearsed.

Sadie Hammett and "A Kentucky Girl" are still pleasing large audiences in The Grand.

Vaudeville of best class is what is offered at Smith's this week.

Do Not Confuse Them.

The only authentic world's fair photographs are to be handled in Grand Rapids by The Ilustrado. Part one will go on sale this morning. The price is 10 cents and a HERALD coupon for each part. Do not confuse this with our Holiday Souvenir Picture offer. There are a few of these handsome pictures left, but they are going fast. They make handsome Christmas presents and cost but little.

WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR CHRISTMAS?

Something Very Sensible and Useful of course This Season.

No other house here furnishes so rich a field for suitable presentation goods. Our prices would be a revelation to merchants who are urging upon you their long ago purchases with out of date prices.

Ladies and Gentlemen are coming in squads for our

Christmas Furnishing Goods.

They're the creamiest ensemble of fresh, new styles you'll find in Grand Rapids. All the novelties, the ultra fashionable things are here and the prices are like wheat at a quarter a bushel.

See the Handsome Line of Smoking Jackets.

Gloves all Styles.
Silk Suspenders.
Silk Handkerchiefs.
Collars and Cuffs.
Silk Scarfs.
Elegant Hosiery.
Traveling Bags.

White Laundry Shirts.
Neckwear, every Style in vogue.
Great Line of Umbrellas.
Linen Handkerchiefs.
Children's Furnishings.
Fine Umbrellas.
Hats, Caps, Night Robes.

And many other requisites to a man or a boy's happiness. While you're looking treat yourself to one of our superbly made fashionable overcoats at \$10, \$12, \$14 or \$15. They're world beaters.

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Snow, Snow, beautiful Snow,
Down you come, up you go.
Whirling, skurrying everywhere,
Filling our eyes, our ears, our hair.

It fills with delight the small boy's heart,
And he and his hand sled are never apart.
He's the envy of all, his sled's the champion,
And 'tis rightly named The Youth's Companion.

YOU CAN WAGER YOUR EXISTENCE

(In other words "bet you life") nothing bearing the name of Youth's Companion is snide, shoddy, undesirable.

YOUTH'S COMPANION SCROLL SAWS

We have sold for years and we know they are good.

YOUTH'S COMPANION STEEL HAND SLEDS

We have not sold very long, but have sold them long enough to know that they are

THE BEST STEEL HAND SLEIGHS

On the market. We haven't very many of them this year and those we have now we won't have long.

Skating is splendid and we have splendid skates.

PUT A PAIR OF SKATES IN YOUR BOY'S STOCKING

If you want to see a smile of beatific radiance illuminate the cherubic countenance of the pride and terror of the household on Christmas morn.

FOSTER-STEVENS
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